

additional limitations which are based upon the discussion held at that time. In particular, Claim 23 now includes the subject matter of Claim 25, and further recites that the rigid protuberance extends in the plane of the adhesive layer and has a width substantially the same as the width of the interpolated adhesive layer. Basis for this can clearly be found in Figure 1.

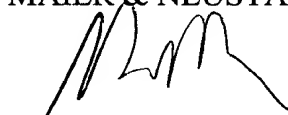
Claim 25, whose subject matter has now been incorporated into Claim 23, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the U.S. patent to Cheron et al, particularly at Figures 5 and 6 which show the metal insert 22. However, the metal insert 22 does not have a width which is substantially the same as the width of the plastic layer 20, but is instead a narrow belt having a 2 mm thickness (column 5, line 40) which is embedded within the intermediate sheet 20. Since the intermediate sheet 20 is formed of polyvinylbutyral and the insert 22 is considerably thinner than the sheet 20, the application of a load onto the insert 22 will cause the sheet 20 to flex, so that the insert 22 can pivot in its mounting position, possibly permitting the insert 22 to separate from the element to which it is attached. This will not occur in the present invention, where the rigid protuberance extends in the plane of the adhesive layer and has a width substantially the same as the width of the interpolated adhesive layer. Amended Claim 23 is therefore believed to define over this reference.

Claim 25 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the U.S. patent to Stephinson. However, the metal insert 9 of this reference does not extend in a plane of the interpolated adhesive layer, nor does it have a width which is substantially the same as the width of the interpolated adhesive layer 10. Claim 23 therefore defines over this reference as well.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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